• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXIV JANUARY, 1957 NUMBER 1

DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS RE-ELECT OFFICERS

Board Chairman Joseph Jensen presents Board Secretary Fred A. Heilbron with his 10-year service pin while Vice Chairman Warren W. Butler looks on. All three officers were unanimously re-elected at a meeting of the Board on January 8. Chairman Jensen will be serving his fifth consecutive term as will Mr. Butler. Mr. Heilbron was re-elected to his fourth term as Secretary.

Board Officers Are Unanimously Re-elected

Joseph Jensen was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at a meeting of the Board on January 8. This will be Mr. Jensen's fifth consecutive term as Chairman of the Board.

Warren W. Butler was also re-elected to serve a fifth term as Vice Chairman, and Fred A. Hilbron was re-elected to his fourth term as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Chairman Jensen was first appointed to the Board in August of 1940 as one of the Los Angeles representatives, and he served as a Board member until February of 1944 when he resigned. He was re-appointed in March of 1946 and elected Chairman in 1949 after serving the preceding term as Vice Chairman. He is the representative of the Metropolitan Water District on the Colorado River Board of California.

Mr. Jensen recently retired as Assistant to the Divisional General Manager of the Western Division of the Tidewater Oil Company and is now a consulting engineer with that company, and also for the Pacific Electric Railway Company.

Vice Chairman Butler represents the City of Compton on the Board, having served as a member since 1935. He is the Managing Editor of the Herald-American newspapers in the southeast Los Angeles County area.

Secretary Heilbron is one of the directors representing the San Diego County Water Authority, and is also Chairman of the Authority's Board of Directors. He was appointed to the District Board following the annexation of the Authority to the District in 1947. He is owner of the Fred A. Heilbron Plumbing and Electrical Contractors.

Members and officers of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District serve without salary. The Board now consists of 36 members who represent the thirteen "original" member cities of the District, nine municipal water districts and one county water authority. Altogether, there are 75 incorporated cities within the boundaries of the District, which covers an area of 3,000 square miles in the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego.

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THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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General Manager Diemer Receives Beaver Award

Robert B. Diemer, District General Manager and Chief Engineer, was congratulated by the Board of Directors on January 22 for having been one of 11 men prominent in the construction industry in the West who were recently presented with the coveted Beaver Award, the Oscar of the heavy construction industry. The presentation was made by the Beavers at an Awards dinner on January 18.

The men honored were cited for "outstanding contributions and meritorious service" in the industry. They were presented with a golden statuette of a beaver at the base of a large dam.

The purpose of the Beavers is to promote good will, friendliness and consideration . . . to pay tribute to the men who have demonstrated particular skill, responsibility and integrity in the construction industry.

The program for the Awards dinner, which was held in the Biltmore Bowl, with 1000 in attendance, had the following to say about Mr. Diemer:

"Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, was born in Missouri in 1888, and first came in contact with construction work at the age of 16 years when he started work in his home town mixing concrete for sidewalk construction.

"Bob learned more of construction working for the C. B. & Q. Railroad for a year as a yard clerk. Before he graduated from the University of Missouri with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1911, he spent a year on surveys with the United States Reclamation Service in Nebraska. More construction work, including canals and dams on the North Platte and Riverton projects of the Reclamation Service in Nebraska and Wyoming, required his services from 1911 to 1926.

"In 1929 he came to Los Angeles to assist on the studies for the Colorado River Aqueduct. This project was recently chosen as one of the Seven Engineering Wonders of the United States and has had Bob Diemer's uninterrupted attention since 1929. He has served the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in many capacities and has been General Manager and Chief Engineer since January, 1952."

Board Chairman Joseph Jensen, right, admires golden Beaver which was presented to General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, left, by the Beavers for "outstanding contributions and meritorious service" to the heavy construction industry.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed January, 1957 covering District operations for December, 1956.)

Colorado River — The water surface elevation in Lake Mead dropped 2.07 feet during December to elevation 1097.28, and the usable storage decreased 195,000 acre-feet to 11,975,000. For the calendar year 1956 the Lake Mead water surface elevation showed a net rise of 6.24 feet and an increase of usable storage of 576,000 acre-feet. The average rate of discharge from Hoover Dam during December was 7,820 cubic feet per second as compared with 8,168 cfs a year ago.

Power and Pumping — Pumping at Hayfield was continuous throughout the month on a 4-pump basis. A total of 48,604 acre-feet was delivered by the Hayfield pumping plant. The District's share of Parker energy for December was 9,865,738 kwhrs, all of which was used by the District in its own system. Peak delivery to and from the Edison Company was 60,500 kw and 120,000 kw, respectively.

Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant—Colorado River water was softened from 394 to 124 ppm of hardness at an average rate of 214 cfs. The daily rate of flow varied from a minimum of 148 cfs to a maximum of 293 cfs.

Construction—Progress on construction work during December was as follows: Schedule 79SC (Lower Feeder) the contract is 57 percent complete; Schedule 80SC (Lower Feeder) the contract is 63 percent complete; Schedule 61SC (West Orange County Feeder Extension) the contract is 94 percent complete; Schedule 56SC and 57SC (Middle Feeder), work on 56 is 17 percent complete, and no work has started on 57; Schedule 58SC (Middle Feeder) pipe laying is scheduled to start early in January at the east end.

Extension of Pumping Plant Buildings —The contract is 59 percent complete. Work at Intake is 89 percent complete; at Gene plant work is 77 percent complete; at Iron Mountain plant the work is 58 percent complete; at Eagle Mountain plant work is 51 percent complete, and at Hayfield the work is 25 percent complete.

Purchasing — Total expenditures covered by 361 purchase orders and 5 agreements approximated $129,854.

Judge C. C. Cravath Retires as Director

Judge C. C. Cravath, who has represented the Coastal Municipal Water District on the Metropolitan Water District Board for more than 14 years, announced his retirement this month. The Directors of the Coastal Water District have named Mr. Lynndon L. Aufdenkamp to succeed Judge Cravath.

Judge Cravath came to the District Board with years of experience in helping solve Southland water problems. He had been a member of the Laguna Beach County Water District Board since 1932 and in 1926 was auditor of that district. He has served for many years as Justice of Peace and Police Judge for Laguna Beach.

Baseball fans of an earlier era remember Director Cravath as one of America's greatest diamond heroes of the first two decades of this century. From 1903 to 1908 he played with the Los Angeles club in the Coast League and then moved up into the major leagues. From 1912 to 1923 he was with the Philadelphia Nationals, and during the last two years was manager of the club. He was one of the greatest and most colorful of the home run kings of his time.

During World War II he organized one of the first bands of California's Guerrillas and he and his troops patrolled the beaches and cliffs along the Laguna surf.

Mr. Aufdenkamp has been a resident of Laguna Beach for 42 years. He developed an early interest in radio and electricity and while still in his teens established and operated his own electrical contracting business.

He later became the manager of a theatrical act and toured the United States, Canada and Mexico. He then entered into a business partnership with his father and assumed management of the Lynn Theater.

At the outset of World War II, Director Aufdenkamp enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and soon rose to command of a Coast Guard cutter. He acted as Squadron Commander of Air Sea Rescue Craft for a year and a half.

Following the war he became semi-retired but took up business property management, with raising avocados as his avocation. His interest in water began with conservation methods in irrigation and grew when he became a Director on the Laguna Beach County Water District Board.

Judge C. C. Cravath, right, is shown as he turns over his position on the District Board of Directors to his successor, Mr. Lynndon L. Aufdenkamp. Judge Cravath had represented the Coastal Municipal Water District on the M. W. D. Board for over 14 years before he resigned this month.

Legislature Approves Funds for Feather River

The California State Legislature, in the closing hours of the January session, approved a $25,190,000 appropriation to start work on the initial phases of the proposed Feather River Project. This work would consist mainly of relocation of highways and railroads at the Oroville damsite.

It appeared for a time that no appropriation would be voted by the lawmakers because of a deadlock over an additional $1,300,000 appropriation which was tacked on to the bill in the Senate, which is controlled by solons from the northern part of the state.

This additional amount was to be earmarked for a series of small dams and projects upstream from the Oroville damsite. Assemblymen from the South balked at such a move, saying that it violated an agreement reached earlier.

When it seemed that the issue was hoplessly deadlocked, a two-house conference committee agreed to take out the additional funds and the bill was accepted by both the Assembly and the Senate. Governor Goodwin Knight has announced that he will sign the bill.

The final action taken by the Legislature was in line with the stand taken previously by the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors, and officials of the District have praised strongly the action of Southern California's delegation for their unified stand in refusing to compromise principle in the interest of nonbeneficial expediency.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

District employees at the Softening Plant have a red hot (?) basketball team going and have entered the La-Verne Men's Basketball League. The League opened on January 7 and will end March 11. There are five teams in the League. Members of the District team are Bob Watley, Ray Hurd, Keith Goodwin, Pat Thomas, Jim Loofbourrow, Floyd Kellner, Harold Vinson, Harold Sundberg, Mat Ballinger and Frank Dennis. Frank is also the team manager. The team won half of their four practice games but dropped the League opener 20 to 36.

* * *

William F. (Mac) McCleary, Superintendent of Aqueduct Maintenance, became a grandfather for the first time on December 28 when a baby boy was born to Mac's son, Pat, and his wife.

The young man arrived at St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach weighing 5 pounds, 8 ounces. He has been named William George.

M.W.D. FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
December 31, 1956
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MEMBERSHIP		182
ASSETS:		
Outstanding loans (75)		$22,142.84
Cash on hand		3,432.77
Unamortized Organization Cost		76.12
TOTAL ASSETS		$25,651.73
LIABILITIES:		
Shares		$24,925.36
Regular Reserve		42.50
Undivided earnings—		
Income	818.46	
Expenses	134.59	
	683.87	683.87
TOTAL LIABILITIES		$25,651.73
DIVIDEND 4%		

* * *

Jack and Rose Marie Wooley are the proud parents of a baby daughter born the day before Christmas. She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and has been named Marina Jo. Jack is a Zeolite Operator at the Softening Plant, and Rose Marie is a former Switchboard Operator in the Los Angeles office.

Erik Gude, who, with his wife, Helena, has won $100 a week for 15 years on Edgar Bergen's "Do You Trust Your Wife" television show, is the son of Hans Gude, who was a Superintendent with the Macco Construction Company during the early aqueduct construction days. This company was one of the contracting firms which carried forward the heavy construction work in the building of the Colorado River Aqueduct in its first development between 1933 and 1941. The young Gudes' winnings so far total $79,200 and they are still going strong.

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Robert J. (Bob) Williams, Senior Draftsman in the Los Angeles office, and his wife Patricia, welcomed their third daughter to the family on January 4. The young lady arrived at Glendale Community Hospital weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces and has been named Catherine Louise.

District youngsters enjoyed a gala evening at the District's Christmas party at the Palms restaurant near LaVerne on December 21. Shown above, left to right, are Esther Dowd, daughter of Munson Dowd, Jewell Chadwick, an entertainer, Robert B. Diemer, Pat Doyle, son of Lorrayne Doyle, Leon Stephens, Marvin Stephens' son, Mike Doyle, Lorrayne's older son, and Vicki Merrithew, Bill Merrithew's daughter.